The entire coast lines of Guadalupe and several of the other islands were examined carefully for evidence of the existence of the Guadalupe fur seal but not a single animal was seen. Many inquiries were also made regarding the species but no information was obtained which would indicate that there remained a living representative. It has apparently gone the way of the great auk, Steller's sea cow and several other valuable species; commercial hunters can cut another notch on their gun-stock.

The old fur-seal rookery grounds of Guadalupe were examined carefully. Three of these were found and the lava rocks were polished as smoothly as though they had been deserted but yesterday. An estimate based upon knowledge gained on the Alaska fur-seal rookeries placed the original number of animals on Guadalupe at 100,000. The great killing took place in the early part of the nineteenth century and we must look with remorse upon our ancestors who were so thoughtness as to destroy so valuable an animal. In 1892 and subsequently several expeditions have visited Guadalupe Island in the hope of securing specimens for museum purposes but met with no success. Four incomplete skulls upon which the species was founded and possibly a few disassociated bones (yet unidentified) taken by the last expedition seem to represent all there is of it except regrets.

No southern sea otters were seen by the members of the expedition, but information obtained would indicate that there are still alive a very few of these excessively valuable animals.

The natural history collections made by the expedition were large considering that the islands were visited during the dry season. Specimens in various groups were obtained in approximately the following numbers: birds and mammals, 300; reptiles and amphibians, 1,000; insects, 1,100; land shells, 2,000; marine fossils, many; and miscellaneous fishes, invertebrates and plants.

The representatives of the Mexican government are thoroughly alive to the necessity of conserving the natural resources of their western territory. It is not expected that measures will be adopted which will throttle the proper commercial development of the vast wealth of marine life of those waters but it is expected that the Mexican government will provide laws and regulations which will properly safeguard and conserve those resources so that they may continue for all time valuable assets of that government.

G. DALLAS HANNA
CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

AID TO RUSSIAN SCIENTISTS

THE American Committee to Aid Russian Scientists with Scientific Literature made an appeal through SCIENCE (June 23, 1922) to the scientific men and organizations of the United States for gifts of American scientific books, journals and papers to be sent, by aid of the generous cooperation of the American Relief Administration, of which Mr. Herbert Hoover is chairman, to Russia for distribution among Russian universities, scientific organizations and individual workers. In addition to the general appeal through SCIENCE, the committee made a special appeal by letter to various commercial publishing houses, university presses and scientific organizations which publish journals, memoirs, bulletins, etc.

The response to this appeal has been widespread and generous. Up to date nearly nine tons of American scientific books, journals and papers published since January 1, 1915, have been collected and sent to Russia. The contributors include 70 government and state bureaus and experiment stations, 40 universities and colleges and university presses, 23 national and state scientific societies and about 120 private individuals. To make special mention of any contributors among the many who have made such generous response to the appeal may seem unfair, but to reveal the interesting fact that commercial publishing houses, which are presumably not primarily philanthropic, or, at least, immediately benevolent in their aims, have exhibited a generosity not inferior to that shown by the more strictly science-supporting organizations, I want to call attention to such examples of good will as shown by the Yale University Press in its contribution of six copies each of twenty-four first class scientific books published by it, and by Doubleday, Page and Company in submitting a list

of their publications and requesting the committee to choose what books it desired.

The only disappointment to the committee is that caused by the comparatively small number of private individuals so far represented in the list of donors. A partial explanation of this is undoubtedly to be found in the fact that the appeal was issued at just about the end of the academic year when many professors had left their laboratories for their summer vacation.

The committee wishes to express its thanks to all those organizations and persons who have responded to its call and to make known to these contributors an expression, recently received by cable, of the great gratitude of the Moscow representative committee of Russian scientists.

It also wishes to repeat its appeal to individual scientific workers for contributions of reprints to the number of six each, if possible, of their published papers since January 1, 1915. The committee has at its disposal only a limited fund to cover the necessary clerical work. It asks, therefore, that contributors of literature cover the cost of its transportation to New York, from which point all cost of handling and shipment will be borne by the American Relief Administration. Contributors should send, with each consignment, one copy of a list of the publications sent by them and five copies of this list (apart from the consignment) together with all letters containing advices of shipments, express and shipping receipts to the American Relief Administration, Russian Scientific Aid, 42 Broadway, New York City. The publications themselves should be sent by parcels post or express, or if very heavy, by freight, to the American Relief Administration, care Gertzen and Company, 70 West Street, New York City. Requests for further information should be sent to the American Committee to Aid Russian Scientists, 1701 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D. C.

The answer to one such request for information which has been received from numerous inquiries may be given here and now. The contributed material is not turned over to the Soviet government, nor is the distribution of this material determined by the Soviet government. The distribution is effected under the general direction of the American Committee by the American Relief Administration working in cooperation with a special committee in Moscow of Russian scientists representing various Russian universities and scientific organizations. The extraordinary independence of the American Relief Administration, extraordinary in the light of the existent circumstances, as regards its activities in Russia, is perhaps not generally realized here in America.

VERNON KELLOGG,
Chairman
L. O. HOWARD
DAVID WHITE
RAPHAEL ZON
American Committee to Aid Russian Scientists with Scientific Literature

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE RECOVERY OF HELIUM

SATISFACTORY operation on a laboratory scale of a simplified and much cheaper method of recovering helium is reported through the American Chemical Society by H. Foster Bain, director of the U. S. Bureau of Mines. In a test made within the last month at the cryogenic laboratory in the Interior Department building, helium was recovered from natural gas in one operation in sufficient purity for use in dirigibles or balloons.

"This development," Mr. Bain said, "indicates that very soon commercial production of helium for lighter-than-air craft is probably feasible." Not only will this work insure safety from fire and explosions, but it is almost certain to result in an entirely new type of airship design. The motor, for instance, could be placed inside the envelope of a helium ship if necessary.

The research work leading up to this achievement was directed by the United States Helium Board, composed of Lieutenant Commander F. M. Kraus, representing the Navy, Colonel R. F. Favel, representing the Army, and Dr. R. B. Moore chief chemist of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, H. S. Mulliken, production engineer, alternate. The actual work of development was directed by a group of men known as the Board of Helium Engineers, with the following membership: M. H. Roberts, Franklin Railway Supply Company; R. C. Tolman, of